

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and all prior listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A car body including:

an underframe formed of a first hollow member and a side structure formed of a second hollow member, which are welded together at two positions; and

the exterior side of said first hollow member, of said underframe, and the exterior side of said second hollow member, of said side structure, are friction stir welded, whereby said underframe and said side structure are friction stir welded to each other at a friction stir welded joint portion,

wherein the friction stir welded joint portion exists on a line of an extension of an interior-side surface plate of said first hollow member, and

wherein the first hollow member includes a connecting plate having a portion extending perpendicular to the second hollow member and a portion extending perpendicular to a remaining part of the first hollow member, said remaining part being a part of the first hollow member other than the connecting plate, the friction stir welded joint portion being between the second hollow member and the connecting plate.

2. (Previously Presented) The car body according to claim 1, wherein inner surface plates of the first and second hollow members are welded to each other at the interior side of the car body, by a fillet weld.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The car body according to claim 1, wherein said side structure is substantially orthogonal to said underframe.

5. (Currently Amended) A car body including:

an underframe formed of a first hollow member and a side structure formed of a second hollow member, which are welded together at two positions; and

the exterior side of said first hollow member, of said underframe, and the exterior side of said second hollow member, of said side structure, are friction stir welded, whereby said underframe and said side structure are friction stir welded to each other at a friction stir welded joint portion,

wherein the friction stir welded joint portion exists on a line of an extension of a connecting plate, which is substantially orthogonal to inner and outer surface plates of said second hollow member and connects the inner and outer surface plates of the second hollow member, and

wherein the first hollow member includes said connecting plate, said connecting plate having a portion extending perpendicular to the second hollow member and a portion extending perpendicular to a remaining part of the first hollow member, said remaining part being a part of the first hollow member other than the connecting plate, the friction stir welded joint portion being between the second hollow member and the connecting plate.

6. (Previously Presented) The car body according to claim 5, wherein inner surface plates of the first and second hollow members are welded to each other at the interior side of the car body, by a fillet weld.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The car body according to claim 5, wherein said side structure is substantially orthogonal to said underframe.

9. (Currently Amended) A car body including:
an underframe formed of a first hollow member and a side structure formed of a second hollow member, which are welded together,
wherein the exterior side of said first hollow member, of said underframe, and the exterior side of said second hollow member, of said side structure, are friction stir welded to each other, whereby said underframe and said side structure are friction stir welded to each other, and
wherein the first hollow member includes a connecting plate having a portion extending perpendicular to the second hollow member and a portion extending perpendicular to a remaining part of the first hollow member, said remaining part being a part of the first hollow member other than the connecting plate, the friction stir welded joint portion being between the second hollow member and the connecting plate.

10. (Previously Presented) The car body according to claim 9, wherein said side structure is substantially orthogonal to said underframe.

11. (Previously Presented) The car body according to claim 9, wherein the interior side of said first hollow member, of said underframe, and the interior side of said second hollow member, of said side structure, are welded to each other by a fillet weld.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The car body according to claim 9, wherein said connecting plate extends between an exterior surface plate of the first hollow member and an interior surface plate of the first hollow member, and extends to the friction stir welding of the exterior side of said first hollow member and the exterior side of said second hollow member.

14. (Previously Presented) The car body according to claim 13, wherein said connecting plate extends substantially orthogonally to the exterior and the interior surface plates of the second hollow member.

15. (Previously Presented) The car body according to claim 9, wherein said first hollow member includes an interior surface substantially in the same plane as the connecting plate, the connecting plate extending to the friction stir welding of the exterior side of said first hollow member and the exterior side of said second hollow member.

16. (Currently Amended) A car body including:

an underframe formed of a first hollow member and a side structure formed of a second hollow member, which are welded together at two positions respectively of interior and exterior sides of the car body;

the exterior side of said first hollow member of said underframe and the exterior side of said second hollow member of said side structure are friction stir welded, forming a friction stir welded joint portion, whereby the underframe and the side structure are friction stir welded to each other; and

a joint exists on a line of an extension of [[the]] an interior surface plate of the second hollow member and an interior surface plate of the first hollow member, and

wherein the first hollow member includes a connecting plate having a portion extending perpendicular to the second hollow member and a portion extending perpendicular to a remaining part of the first hollow member, said remaining part being a part of the first hollow member other than the connecting plate, the friction stir welded joint portion being between the second hollow member and the connecting plate.

17. (Previously Presented) A car body including:

an underframe formed of a first hollow member and a side structure formed of a second hollow member, which are welded together at two positions; and

the exterior side of said first hollow member, of said underframe, and the exterior side of said second hollow member, of said side structure, are friction stir

welded, whereby said underframe and said side structure are friction stir welded to each other at a friction stir welded joint portion,

wherein the friction stir welded joint portion exists on a line of an extension of an interior-side surface plate of said first hollow member,

wherein inner surface plates of the first and second hollow members are welded to each other at the interior side of the car body, by a fillet weld, and

wherein said fillet weld is a weld formed by arc welding.

18. (Previously Presented) A car body including:

an underframe formed of a first hollow member and a side structure formed of a second hollow member, which are welded together at two positions; and

the exterior side of said first hollow member, of said underframe, and the exterior side of said second hollow member, of said side structure, are friction stir welded, whereby said underframe and said side structure are friction stir welded to each other at a friction stir welded joint portion,

wherein the friction stir welded joint portion exists on a line of an extension of a connecting plate, which is substantially orthogonal to inner and outer surface plates of the second hollow member and connects the inner and outer surface plates of the second hollow member,

wherein inner surface plates of the first and second hollow members are welded to each other at the interior side of the car body, by a fillet weld, and

wherein said fillet weld is a weld formed by arc welding.

19. (Previously Presented) A car body including:

an underframe formed of a first hollow member and a side structure formed of a second hollow member, which are welded together

wherein the exterior side of said first hollow member, of said underframe, and the exterior side of said second hollow member, of said side structure, are friction stir welded to each other, whereby said underframe and said side structure are friction stir welded to each other,

wherein the interior side of said first hollow member, of said underframe, and the interior side of said second hollow member, of said side structure, are welded to each other by a fillet weld, and

wherein said fillet weld is a weld formed by arc welding.